

REMARKS

The claims in the case are claims 1-8. The claims were amended in the preliminary examination. The claims have been amended to further eliminate multiple dependency and to put them in better form for U.S. filing.

No new matter is included.

Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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CLAIMS 53207

1. (original) A process for preparing alkenylaromatic compounds by reacting alkylaromatic compounds in the presence of steam and natural gas or methane over a suitable catalyst at a temperature of from 400 to 800°C and a pressure of from 0.01 to 10 bar, wherein the molar ratio of steam to alkylaromatic compound is from 6.9:1 to 1:1, the molar ratio of methane to alkylaromatic compound is from 0.1:1 to 8:1, and the methane is admixed before contact with the catalyst.
2. (original) A process for preparing alkenylaromatic compounds as claimed in claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of steam to alkylaromatic compound is from 5.95:1 to 2.5:1.
3. (currently amended) A process for preparing alkenylaromatic compounds as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the molar ratio of steam to alkylaromatic compound is from 0.2:1 to 6:1.
4. (currently amended) A process for preparing alkenylaromatic as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1, 2 or 3~~, wherein the reaction is carried out in from two to six steps.
5. (currently amended) A process for preparing alkenylaromatic compounds as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1, 2, 3 or 4~~, wherein the alkylaromatic compound used is isopropylbenzene, ethylbenzene, 1,2-diphenylethane or an alkylpyridine compound.
6. (currently amended) A process for preparing alkenylaromatic compounds as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5~~, wherein the hydrocarbon compound used is ethylbenzene.

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7. (currently amended) A process for preparing alkenylaromatic compounds as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6~~, wherein the natural gas comprises at least 90 vol% of methane.
8. (currently amended) A process for preparing alkenylaromatic compounds as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6~~, wherein the reaction is carried out in radial flow reactors